

November 13, 2015

Chairman Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of  
Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We are pleased to support the nomination of Olivia Wein to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors for a second term in the position for information service providers.<sup>1</sup> Ms. Wein is the Lead Telecom Project Attorney for the National Consumer Law Center and has been working on Universal Services issues since her time as an Economic Justice Fellow at Consumers Union in the late 90s.

Ms. Wein is a valued member of the public interest community as an expert on the Lifeline program and the impact of telecommunications programs and policies on low-income consumers. Current aspects of Lifeline program administration, such as annual reverification, are requiring USAC to become more outward facing to Lifeline recipients. The expected Lifeline modernization work will require USAC to accelerate the shift towards becoming more outward facing, particularly to eligible low-income consumers and the broader network of agencies and organizations that provide front-line assistance to these households. Ms. Wein's expertise and standing in the low-income consumer advocacy community will provide USAC with low-income program implementation expertise, including effective outreach and engagement with Lifeline-eligible consumers and their local community assistance agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2013 the Wireline Competition Bureau did not receive nominations for the seats representing interexchange carriers with more than \$3 billion in annual operating revenues or information service providers and as a result waived 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.703(b) and 54.703(c)(3) to appoint members from the telecommunications field for those two seats, enabling USAC to operate with its full complement of Board members. *See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.; Nominations for Board Member Positions on the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, Order, DA 13-607 (Wireline Comp. Bur. Rel. Apr. 25, 2013).

We strongly endorse Ms. Wein's nomination to serve a second term on the USAC Board of Directors as set forth above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Kimmelman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Gene Kimmelman  
President and CEO  
Public Knowledge

Cc: Charles Tyler, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau